

cast as far at least as Russian Mantchuria. M. Taczanowski sent also a pair of the fine grey Bullfinch—the male from the Ussuri, the female from the River Onon. The former has a clear tail, the female has the white patch strongly pronounced. The white tail-patch, therefore, can scarcely be accepted as a fixed character; and I should be rather inclined to suggest that *P. cassini* be a hybrid (strongly as I object to the idea in face of the Development theory) between two species, say *P. coccinea* and *P. cineracea*. Temminck, I see, says (Manuel, iii. p. 249, under "*Pyrrhula vulgaris*") :—"On la trouve en Sibérie, et jusqu'au Japon;" but in those days they had not, I believe, recognized the larger form to which De Selys-Longchamps subsequently gave the name *P. coccinea*.

Yours, &c.,

ROBERT SWINHOE.

XLVI.—Obituary.

WE regret to have to record the premature death, during the past year, of one of the original founders of our association. The Rev. WILLIAM HENRY HAWKER, of Ashford Lodge, near Petersfield, vicar of the parish of Steep, in which his property was situated, although not an actual contributor to these pages, was a personal friend of many of us, and an ardent supporter of natural science.

Mr. Hawker was the fifth son of the late Admiral Hawker, and was born in Dec. 1827. He was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, and, after taking his degree, studied for the church at Wells. After taking Orders, he was for some years curate of Idsworth, near Horndean, in the south of Hampshire, and removed to Ashford on succeeding to that property in 1860. Mr. Hawker was owner of a considerable collection of British birds and insects; he was an ardent entomologist, and an excellent botanical collector. He made frequent excursions in various parts of Europe, particularly in Norway, Switzerland, the Maritime Alps of Savoy, and the islands of Corsica and Sardinia. He was an

active member of the Alpine Club, and contributed several valuable papers to the '*Alpine Journal*,' among which we may mention an account of his travels in Corsica in the spring of 1866, as containing much interesting matter to naturalists. Mr. Hawker died, after a short illness, on the 26th of May last, at the early age of forty-six years.

Commander ROWLAND MONEY SPERLING, of the Royal Navy, became a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1867. Being a keen ornithologist, he availed himself of the scanty opportunities afforded him by his official duties, of collecting and observing the birds that came under his notice during his cruises in different parts of the world. The results were communicated to this *Journal*. In 1864 he published a paper entitled "*Some account of an Ornithologist's Cruise in the Mediterranean.*" This contains some good notes on the migration and habits of many European birds. When acting-commander of H.M.S. '*Racoon*,' he gathered the materials for another paper, which was published in our volume for 1868. His cruising-ground on this occasion was the south-eastern shores of Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to Zanzibar, and included also a visit to the "*wide-awake fair*," on the island of Ascension. In this paper the *Procellariidæ* of those seas came in for a considerable share of attention. Sperling's last communication was published in the form of a letter in 1872. A visit to the island of Tristan d'Acunha is here related, and also a few notes made during an excursion on the Rio de la Plata.

These papers show that the routine of a sailor's life admits of much useful ornithological work being accomplished. We wish we could number more followers in a service where many officers enjoy equal, if not greater, opportunities for pursuing our favourite science.

EDWARD BLYTH, who died in London in December 1873, at the age of sixty-three, was a naturalist of no ordinary type. Though to the readers of '*The Ibis*' his name will be chiefly known in its connexion with ornithology, birds by

no means formed the only zoological subject of which he possessed very ample knowledge. From 1833 to the time of his death, Blyth worked incessantly; and memoirs were contributed by him to different scientific publications, chiefly to the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, *The Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, and to this *Journal*. For twenty-two years prior to the year 1864 he held the position of Curator in the Calcutta Museum, an institution which profited largely by his energy and ability. It was here that Blyth devoted himself to the study of the natural history of British India and its dependencies, the results of which have connected his name so intimately with the zoology of those countries. After his return to England Blyth continued his favourite work with unabated industry, and was at times almost daily to be seen consulting the library of the Zoological Society. At the Society's meetings, too, he was a frequent attendant.

Blyth's connexion with the British Ornithologists' Union commenced in 1860, when he was elected one of our original Honorary Members. After his return to England he was made an Extraordinary Member, and so continued to the day of his death.

All who knew Blyth were struck with his powers of memory, and the readiness with which names and references found expression. His suggestions on such points, though not always accurate, were seldom wide of the mark.

Some of the earlier writings of Blyth, before he took up his residence in Calcutta, were communicated to Rennie's '*Field Naturalist*.' It is curious now to look back to them and see how he leant himself to the prevailing epidemic of that period for changing names of birds supposed to be unsuitably applied. Even our most familiar species, such as the Robin, did not escape. It was the mistaken zeal for the fitness and uniformity of names, regardless of the consequences, so manifested at this time, which provoked Strickland so energetically and successfully to protest. But the spirit of change which prompted Blyth and others in those days is not wholly laid; for ever and anon it reappears in some new form to disturb

the peace of ornithological nomenclature. In his later writings Blyth adhered loyally to the "rules of nomenclature."

It will be a matter of regret if the works of so diligent a writer should be allowed to remain diffused, as they are, through so many zoological journals—the more so as the works of our most laborious compilers omit all references to original descriptions, nor do they furnish any clew to where they are to be found, beyond the name of a species and its author. Is there not here a field of activity for some member of our Union? who, by making even an index to the generic and specific names scattered through Blyth's works, would not only honour a great ornithologist's memory, but also, by saving hours of too often fruitless search to his fellow-workers, confer a great boon upon ornithological science generally.

JULES PIERRE VERREAUX was born on the 24th of August, 1807. At the early age of twelve years he accompanied his uncle, the well-known "naturaliste-voyageur," Delalande, to the Cape of Good Hope, where he remained for two years, assisting in preparing the collections which were ultimately sent to the Paris Museum. On his return to Paris he studied in the laboratories of that institution under G. Cuvier and Isidore St.-Hilaire. After the death of his uncle, Jules Verreaux started alone for the Cape of Good Hope in 1825, where, partly in company with Sir Andrew Smith, he worked for five years with such success that he had to send for his brother Edouard to help him to arrange and pack his large collections, and take charge of them to Paris, where, on their arrival, they were arranged for exhibition in the galleries of the Baron B. Delessert.

In 1832 Jules Verreaux again summoned his brother to join him, and till 1837 they travelled together, making expeditions to the Philippine Islands and Cochin-China. In 1838, having amassed large collections, the brothers shipped their treasures on board the trading-vessel 'Lucullus,' they themselves embarking in another ship bound for France. Most unfortunately the 'Lucullus' was totally lost; and the labours of several years, uninsured, perished with her. Undaunted

by this heavy loss, Verreaux at the age of thirty-five, again started on his travels, this time selecting New Holland and Tasmania as the scene of his operations. Here, too, success rewarded his toil, and he amassed large collections of insects, birds, and mammals. This was the last of Verreaux's journeys. On his return to Paris he worked for many years in his brother's establishment in the Place Royale, where he undertook to name all the birds that were sent out for sale to the different museums and collections of the world. The tickets attached to the birds sent from the Maison Verreaux are well known to ornithologists; and the names, often coupled with copious synonyms, bore the evidence of having been written by a man possessed of a wide general knowledge of his subject. It may perhaps be said that, though the published works that have been left by Jules Verreaux are few, no man's handwriting is better known than his amongst the ornithologists of the present day.

About the time of the death of his brother Edouard, Jules became one of the "aide-naturalistes" in the museum of the Jardin des Plantes, where he remained until his death, busily employed naming and arranging the ornithological collections of that vast establishment.

After settling in Paris Verreaux devoted the greater part of his time to working at ornithological synonyms and collecting materials for a monograph of the Nectariniidæ, or Sun-birds. On neither subject was he spared to publish the results of his labour. Were Verreaux's contributions to the science of ornithology to be measured by the amount of his published work, the sum could not be considered large; but who can measure his influence upon the progress of ornithology during his time? Being absolutely unselfish as regards any knowledge he might possess, he ever placed it at the disposal of any one who was likely to make good use of it. It may truly be said he sowed freely for others to reap.

In 1860 Jules Verreaux was elected one of our original Honorary Members, and always took a lively interest in the welfare of 'The Ibis.' He contributed several papers to our Journal. Other articles of his are to be found in the 'Nou-

velles Archives du Muséum,' chiefly relating to Père Armand David's discoveries in China, in the '*Revue Zoologique*,' the '*Proceedings*' of the Zoological Society of London, of which Society he was a Corresponding Member, and the '*Bulletin*' of the Acclimatization Society of Paris.

We understand that the whole of Verreaux's collection of Nectariniidæ, as well as his manuscripts and a considerable portion of his library, have passed into the Paris Museum, than which no fitter destination could be wished.

By the death of Mr. C. F. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, at the early age of thirty, we have lost another contributor to the pages of this Journal. Though Mr. Tyrwhitt-Drake wrote two very useful papers on the ornithology of Morocco*, his name will ever be best known from his connexion with the Palestine-Exploration Society, with whose aims and objects he worked with the greatest sympathy and zeal. Mr. Drake was for some time a member of Trinity College, Cambridge; but, owing to his health compelling him to pass each winter in a southern climate, he did not take his degree. The winter of several years he spent in Morocco, where he made the collections of birds already spoken of. In 1868 he visited Egypt, and in the following spring he went to Sinai with the surveying party appointed to make the exploration of the Sinaitic peninsula. The following year, assisted by a grant from the University of Cambridge, he accompanied Prof. Palmer in his exploration of the Bâdiet el Tih, or the "Wilderness of the Wanderings." This was his first connexion with the Palestine Exploration Society. After spending some months in this district, Edom and Moab, and other places to the eastward of Arabah, were traversed. After visiting Palestine, Syria, Greece, and Turkey, Mr. Drake returned to England for a short time. He soon, however, undertook, under the auspices of the Palestine-Exploration Society, the investigation of the inscribed stones of Hamath, which have since proved so perplexing to palæographers. Having accomplished this task he joined Captain Burton, then Consul at Damascus, in an expedition to the vol-

* "Birds of Tangier and Eastern Morocco," *Ibis*, 1867, p. 421, and "Further Notes on the Birds of Morocco," *Ibis*, 1869, p. 147.

canic districts east of Damascus, and to the highlands of Syria. The materials gathered were published in 'Unexplored Syria,' the joint production of Captain Burton and himself. From this time he devoted his energies to the service of the Palestine-Exploration Society, until, worn with overwork and exposure to a trying climate, he was seized at Jerusalem with an attack of typhoid fever, which proved fatal on the 23rd of June last.

FERDINAND STOLICZKA, who died on the 19th June, 1874, at Shayak, between the Karakorum Pass and Leh, in Ladak, was in his thirty-sixth year. Though not an ornithologist in any special sense, he was evidently possessed of more than a superficial knowledge of the birds of the country which was the scene of his labours. As palæontologist to the Geological Survey of India, he seems to have availed himself of every opportunity of increasing our acquaintance with living zoology, thereby adding to the completeness of his own knowledge of his speciality, palæontology. Though Dr. Stoliczka did not contribute to this Journal, a paper of his upon the birds of Province Wellesley (J. A. S. B. 1870, p. 277) formed the subject of an article by Lord Walden, which appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1871, p. 158. Collections of birds made by Stoliczka in the Himalayas and Thibet were described in a paper by our Honorary Member, Herr A. von Pelzeln, which was published in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1868, and was translated by Lord Walden into this Journal in the volume for the same year (Ibis, 1868, p. 302).

Stoliczka also contributed papers on ornithology to the Journal of the Zoological and Botanical Society of Vienna*, and to the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal'—the most valuable containing his notes on the birds of the Sutliij Valley, and his notice of the mammals and birds inhabiting Kachh. He was also a contributor to 'Stray Feathers.'

For five years he held the position of Honorary Secretary to the Asiatic Society, and was thus enabled to improve materially the natural-history portion of the Society's 'Journal.'

* Verh. k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. Wien, 1866, p. 848.

At the time of his death Stoliczka was returning laden with natural-history spoils from Kashgar and Yarkand, with the mission dispatched by the Government of India under Sir Douglas Forsyth to those distant regions.

His enthusiasm had led him to join this expedition, though strongly urged not to do so on account of the state of his health. His name must be added to the honourable roll of those who, reckoning no risks where science is to be served, have died in the advancement of her cause.

Dr. J. J. KAUP, for many years Director of the Museum in Darmstadt, at one period of his career paid considerable attention to ornithology. Unfortunately his ornithological work was warped and biased by his adherence to a peculiar artificial system much in vogue about forty or fifty years ago, but which has now happily given place to more rational views.

Dr. Kaup's chief ornithological publications are his 'Skizzirte Entwickelungs-Geschichte u. natürl. System der europ. Thierwelt' (Darmstadt: 1829), "Monographie der Genera der Falconidæ" (published in the 'Isis' for 1847, and illustrated by two admirable plates by Wolf), and his 'Classification der Säugethiere und Vögel' (Darmstadt: 1844). In these a vast number of new generic names are proposed, some of which have been adopted.

Besides these, Dr. Kaup described a number of species in Sir W. Jardine's 'Contributions to Ornithology,' in the 'Isis,' the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society, in 'Wiegman's Archiv,' and in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' His descriptions are, unfortunately, exceedingly brief and difficult to make out; so that at the present time some of the names he proposed run the risk of falling altogether into abeyance through the insufficiency of the characters accompanying their introduction.

The zoological collection in the Darmstadt Museum, long under Dr. Kaup's charge, though not extensive, has the merit of being in good order, the specimens being very well mounted. In this respect it, and several other collections in Germany,

are far in advance of any thing we in this country can show. It seems strange that, though we have for years past attracted the best available foreign zoological artists, our efforts to obtain the best stuffers of birds and other animals appear to have been of the feeblest description. The result is that in our great museums, where alone this, the æsthetic branch of the subject, can and ought to be cultivated on an extensive scale, it is treated with indifference, and thus our galleries rendered far less attractive than they otherwise might be.